

VILAS COUNTY SNOWMOBILE TRAIL SAFETY COMMITTEE

Minutes of March 28, 2014 Meeting

Vilas County Courthouse, Conference Rooms 2 & 3, Eagle River, WI

PRESENT: Ralph Sitzberger, Chair; Carolyn Ritter, Vice Chair; Dale Mayo, VC Recreation Administrator; Cindy Burzinski, VC Tourism/Publicity; Laurel Dreger, VC Public Health; Mike Keintz, Alliance Rep NE; Holly Tomlanovich, Alliance Rep SE; Stan Guif, Alliance Rep SW

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Gerard Ritter, VC Sheriff's Dept.; Tim Price, DNR Law Enforcement; Gina Egan VC Public Health; Rocky Caffarella, Alliance President; Leo Crawley, Alliance Rep NW

GUESTS: Ken Anderson, Candidate District 17; Art Kunde, Candidate District 14; Eric Rady, Oneida County Snowmobile Coordinator; Jack Kalies, President Sugar Camp Snowmobile Club & Treasurer Oneida County Snowmobile Council; Ray Wolfe LDF Tribal Warden.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Chair Sitzberger.

Verification of posting of meeting - Mayo

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order at the discretion of the Chair. Motion by Guif. Second by Keintz. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes from the February 20, 2014 meeting. Motion by to accept minutes Mayo. Second by Keintz. Motion carried.

Budget Report – Mayo – As of February 21, 2014 beginning budget balance of \$2225. Expense of \$394 – WJFW Safety Spots. Income of \$450 – Donations from & of Sno-Eagles \$200 & Vilas County Snowmobile Alliance \$250. March 38, 2014 balance on hand \$2281. The Oneida County Snowmobile Council has agreed to co-op with Vilas County on the PSA at an amount of \$750. As of the date of this meeting Iron County has not responded back to the Committee's request.

Public Health - Dreger – No report

DNR Report – Mayo – Presented report from Price in his absence. Price is in the process of bidding out the mobile billboard trailer.

Alliance Report – Tomlanovich & Keintz – The Alliance has a new Youth Rep to the AWSC, Dave Mendham of Land O' Lakes, WI. The Alliance voted to move forward with a proposed Trail Policy change as to trail opening date. They voted to move to change to "open on the Friday after the closed of the 10 day muzzle loader deer season". Alliance President will begin process to move to the Vilas County Forestry Committee for their review. Rady explained the Oneida County Trail Opening Policy.

Advertising, Public Relations – Burzinski – Presented quote on the Safety Message coasters. The coasters will have "Ride Right" "Ride Safe" "Slow Down" printed on them. After discussion motion by Guif to purchase 5000 item #237-RD coasters. Second by Keintz. Further discussion. Motion amended by C. Ritter to purchase 8000 item #237-RD coasters. Second by Keintz. Amendment carried. Amended motion: purchase of 8000 item #237-RD coasters carried.

Discussion/planning for the upcoming season re PSA's in light of the co-op with Oneida County.

Sheriff's Report – Mayo – G. Ritter reports 19 patrol hours, with 3 citations issued in February. 14.75 patrol hours so far in the month of March, with 1 citation & 2 written warnings. Total for the season is 110 patrol hours, 21 citations & 8 written warnings. G. Ritter further stated "I am grateful for the Safety Committee's involvement & hard work, which made for another safe snowmobile season here in Vilas County".

Wolfe reported that activity has slowed dramatically. All in all safe season.

Recreation Administrator Report – Mayo – Presented a written report of reported snowmobile accidents in Vilas County for the 2013-2014 season; State snowmobile fatality report with history. In the 5 years since the inception of the Safety Committee there has been a decrease in fatalities. 4 since inception compared to 12 prior to the committee. AB407 aka CAP/STEP passed both State Assembly & Senate. Signed into law by Governor Walker. Now is called Act 142.

Member Items – Tomlanovich – Opened discussion on the use of hand signals. Some signaling is recognized by the DNR. Consensus by the Committee is that it is more important to keep hands on the steering column. Tomlanovich raised question of prosecution of OWI, OUI, etc. Majority of those killed on snowmobiles this season where alcohol was involved have a history of this and given probation each time. No action statement beyond continued education.

Date for next meeting – Thursday, June 19, 2014 – 9am – Vilas County Courthouse Rooms 2 & 3.

Adjourn – 10:30am by Chair Sitzberger
Respectfully submitted by Holly A. Tomlanovich